

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Computer implemented method for allocating to at least two computer servers a demand forecast application, the demand forecast application represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of branches directly emanating therefrom, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least two computer servers;

determining, using a processor operatively coupled to the computer servers, an expected computing time for each branch of the plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree;

allocating each branch of the plurality of branches to a task of a plurality of tasks based on the expected computing time for the branch, such that a total expected computing time for each task is substantially equal, wherein the total expected computing time for a task of the plurality of tasks is determined by adding the expected computing time for each branch that is allocated to the task; and

for each task, distributing the task to a computer server of the at least two computer servers and executing the task on the computer server.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein each task of the plurality of tasks includes one or more allocated branches for execution on a single computer server of the at least two computer servers where the same computer server computes the demand forecast information for an entire portion of each task.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2 and further comprising the step of determining the number of tasks as the product of the number of computer servers available for computing demand forecast information and a user entered value indicating

an average number of tasks the one computer server of said at least two computer servers will process.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) Computer ~~implemented~~ system for allocating to at least two computer servers a demand forecast application, the demand forecast application represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of branches directly emanating therefrom, the system comprising:

at least two computer servers, and

a computer manager executing instructions in a computer program, the computer program instructions comprising program code that:

determines an expected computing time for each branch of the plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree;

allocates each branch of the plurality of branches to a task of a plurality of tasks based on the expected computing time for the branch, such that a total expected computing time for each task is substantially equal, wherein the total expected computing time for a task of the plurality of tasks is determined by adding the expected computing time for each branch that is allocated to the task; and

for each task, ~~distributing~~ distributes the task to a computer server of the at least two computer servers and executing the task on the computer server.

6. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 5 wherein each task of the plurality of tasks includes one or more allocated branches for execution on a single computer server of the at least two computer servers where the same computer server computes the demand forecast information for an entire portion of each task.

7. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 6 wherein the computer manager ~~further program instructions further comprise program code that~~ determines the number of tasks as the product of the number of computer servers available for computing

demand forecast information and a user entered value indicating an average number of tasks the one computer server of said at least two computer servers will process.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) Computer implemented method for allocating to at least two computer servers a demand forecast application, the demand forecast application represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of branches directly emanating therefrom, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least two computer servers;

determining, using a processor operatively coupled with the computer servers, a number of bottom level nodes for each branch of the plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree;

for each branch, distributing the branch to a computer server of the at least two computer servers based on the number of bottom level nodes on the branch and executing the branch on the computer server to compute a demand forecast for the branch; and

summing the computed demand forecasts for each branch to determine a demand forecast for the single top level node.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9 wherein the executing of each branch is performed simultaneously by the at least two computer servers.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein the number of bottom level nodes on each branch determines a computing time to compute the demand forecast for the branch.

12-14. (Canceled)